

# CITY LG – Oct 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

**Bible Story:** Timothy of Lystra, Can You Please Lead Now (Timothy as a young leader) •  
1 Timothy 4:12

**Bottom Line:** You can make a difference right now.

**Memory Verse:** “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live.” 1 Timothy 4:12a, NIV

**Life App:** Individuality—discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference.

**HAVE PICS OF KIDS LAST WEEK SCROLLING IF POSSIBLE DURING PLAYTIME** (If scrolling them is not possible, show them to the whole group as a slideshow at the beginning of LG)

**SFX:** Play high-energy music as kids enter.

*Host enters holding a bunch of clothes and is having trouble carrying them all.*

## Opener

**HOST:** “Hold on a second, everyone. I’m almost there. A little further ... and there!”

*Drop the pile of clothes.*

“Whew! I just went through my closet and found a bunch of old clothes that I don’t wear anymore, and I had an idea for a way we could use them here. I have two big pairs of pants, two big jackets, two pairs of old shoes, and a couple of big, yet stylish, hats. And what do you know? That makes two complete outfits that we can use for today’s game. I need two Small Groups!

*(Or just choose a few kids to be in each group if small groups aren’t figured out yet. Each group needs a SGLeader with it)*

*Call two Small Groups up to the stage and give them the following instructions:*

“Each Small Group will form a line over here. *(Point.)* When I say, ‘Go,’ the first runner of each team will run down to the pile of clothes and put on every item of the outfit over your own clothes. When you have all the items on, pose for the Small Group Leader, who will take your picture. Then take off the outfit, run back to the line, and tag the next runner who will run down and start putting on the clothes after you. This pattern will continue until I call time. The team that gets the most pictures taken is the winner. Yes, that’s right! It’s the “Big Clothes Funny Pose Relay Race.”

**CG:** “Big Clothes Funny Pose Relay Race” Slide

“Let’s get lined up! On your mark, get set, GO!”

**SFX:** High-energy music while kids play the game

*If time allows, play until every child has had a chance to put on the clothes and get his or her picture taken.*

“Wow, I can’t wait to see those pictures! I bet there are some pretty silly pictures of you guys. Those clothes were SO big on all of you. It’s hard to imagine, but one day clothes that size will fit you. All of you are still growing into who God designed you to be. We call that individuality.

**CG:** Individuality Slide

“Individuality is discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference. But that doesn’t mean you have to wait until you get older to make a difference. You can start making a difference right now!

### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “To start off our story today I have a couple of questions. Here’s my first question: What is something you have outgrown? I don’t mean clothes or shoes. I mean what is something that you don’t do anymore because you are too old for it? Think about it for a moment, and when you have an answer, raise your hand. (Walk through the crowd as you ask these questions)

*Call on a few kids to share their answers. If the kids need some help thinking of ideas, give them a few ideas such as: raise your hand if you have stopped drinking from a baby bottle, raise your hand if you stopped riding in a baby car seat or baby stroller or high chair at dinner.*

“Those were some good answers! Now, here’s my second question: What is something that you can’t do right now, but you can’t wait to do when you get older? Maybe it is something that your parents won’t let you do right now, but they will in the next year or two. Or maybe it is something that you’ll be able to do many years from now. But just like before, think about it and raise your hand when you have an answer.

*Call on a few kids to share their answers. If the kids need some help thinking of ideas, give them a few suggestions such as: Do any of you have to wait until you are older before you are allowed to have your own phone? Who is looking forward to learning how to drive a car?*

“Wow, you are on it today. Those were some great answers! I wasn’t even thinking about a lot of the things you mentioned. You’ve all outgrown a lot of things, and there are some awesome things that you’re looking forward to when you get older. But you know what? There are some things you can do right now that are very important too. And Paul wrote about many of those important things in a letter to Timothy a long, long time ago.”

### **PAUL ENCOURAGES TIMOTHY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Timothy had worked with Paul for a long time, but he was younger than Paul and didn’t have as much experience. And now Timothy was on his own at the church. Timothy was having

some struggles and Paul decided to write to him and give him some encouragement. Check out what Paul says in to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12.

#### **CG: 1 Timothy 4:12 Slide**

*(Read directly from the Bible.)* “It says, ‘Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure.’ (NirV) Wow! Pretty encouraging, huh?”

#### **SET AN EXAMPLE IN WHAT YOU SAY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Paul knew that Timothy was a young man, but he encouraged Timothy not to let anyone look down on him even though he was young. Instead, Timothy could set an example for others—even people older than himself. And Paul’s advice to Timothy is advice to us too. The first thing that Paul tells Timothy is to set an example in what he says. There are a lot of ways that we can accomplish this.

#### **CG: “Use Kind Words” Slide**

“Cup your hands around your mouth and say, “USE KIND WORDS.” Ready....USE KIND WORDS! We can use kind words when we speak to other people. That can sound easy at first, but sometimes it can be hard. Maybe you have an older brother or sister or maybe an older friend. What happens if one of those people says or does something mean to you? Yeah, that might happen, huh? And it wouldn’t be any fun when it happens. But even though it is hard, you can respond to this older person with kind words. When you do that, you are setting an example. You’re teaching them how to act even though they are older.

#### **CG: “Speak the Truth” Slide**

“Now lets cup our hands around our mouth and say, SPEAK THE TRUTH.” Ready...SPEAK THE TRUTH! Another way we can set an example with our words is by speaking the truth. That means choosing to be honest instead of lying even when it is difficult or if we might get into trouble. Over time, if you are honest, people will know they can trust you and even look up to you because you are setting a good example.”

#### **SET AN EXAMPLE IN HOW YOU LIVE**

**STORYTELLER:** “So we know from Paul that we should set an example in what we say, but that was just the first part of what he said. He also told us to set an example in how we live. It’s something we have to work on every day. One of the bigger ways to live right is by choosing to do what you know God wants you to do in every situation. But that’s just one idea. I’m betting that some of you can come up with some more ideas of ways that we can set an example in how we live. Raise your hand if you have an idea. How can we set an example in how we live?” *(walk through the crowd while taking answers)*

*Take a few suggestions from the kids and guide the conversation toward other right actions we can take. Here are a few examples: obeying your parents, coming to church, praying for others, helping and serving others, telling others about Jesus, etc.*

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Those were great ideas! Now, let’s look at that verse one more time.

**CG: 1 Timothy 4:12 Slide**

*(Read directly from the Bible.)* “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure.’ *(NIV)* Earlier, we talked about things that we’ve outgrown and don’t do anymore. Then we talked about things that we aren’t old enough to do just yet. But this verse is telling us that no matter how young you are, God has things He wants you to do right now. Like Timothy, you can set an example for others in what you say and how you live. Because of how God created you, He can use you now! Check out the one thing to remember today.”

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “**You can make a difference right now.** God wants us to make a difference in this world, but that isn’t something we have to wait for. It’s not just grown-ups that God uses. He made you and wants to use you now. I am going to say “**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**” And then you will shout “**RIGHT NOW!**”

“ You can make a difference....” *(Kids shout RIGHT NOW!)*

“Let’s try that again, You can make a difference....” *(Kids shout RIGHT NOW!)*

Let’s pray.

### Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for designing us and making us unique. Please give us the courage and strength to set an example for other people no matter how young we are. Help us to set an example in what we say and in how we live. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*